

2012 Parks Budget Community Conversations

Table 6 - Summary of Responses
Tuesday, May 3, 2011, Meadowbrook Community Center

Question 1: The City's General Subfund budget is approximately \$900 million in 2011. Parks' share of the GSF is about 9%, or \$80 million. Of the remaining, 58% (\$500+ million) supports public safety and 6% (\$52 million) supports human services. How should Parks be prioritized in the city's overall budget?

General themes and responses:

- Everyone owns parks and libraries
- Fire and police should be at the top, but parks are used the most by everyone
- Parks should be placed right behind police and fire, since parks decrease the crime rate
- Parks should be connected to greenways and urban connections
- There should be a pay-per-use fee for gyms and food carts
- Support of voluntary usage fees
- There is a need for public safety and parks—both are a quality of life issue
- Specialized programs are important
- Parks are important to health, property value
- Parks define our city
- There is a slippery slope toward commercialization.
- Shock that only 6% of funding goes toward human services.
- More oversight and management is needed
- More money should be spent on Parks